krovsky asked us to read the list of professors we wanted to have reinstated or invited to the University and then remarked:

"You are, of course, sure that these gentlemen will appreciate your gesture. Did you get in touch with them and ascertain their views?"

We had to admit that we had had no time to contact our candidates.

"Then let me tell you what most of your candidates would have told you. The dignity of professorship requires that each new faculty member be elected by old members of the faculty on the basis of his scientific qualifications, without any external pressure. Pressure by a meeting of students is as unacceptable to us as an order by the police."

He cooled down when I explained that the academic qualifications of our candidates were beyond question and that our resolution simply meant we wished to have these distinguished scholars among our teachers.

"Now, gentlemen," said Pokrovsky, "let us hear the proscribed list."

"You know it from the newspapers," I said.

"Yes, we know it," he replied, "and we consider it a disgrace to the University. What you have done, gentlemen, is a trial by the mob, a moral lynching. You have condemned people without giving them an opportunity to defend themselves."

And, turning to me, he said, "Please, Mr. Woytinsky, answer me frankly, in accordance with your own convictions: Did these persons get a fair trial?"

To the utter dismay of the gnome I answered, "I must admit that they did not."

"That settles the formal side of the problem," said Pokrovsky. "You will recognize, of course, that a decision made without a fair trial is void. But we would like to single out the case of Professor Georgievsky. He is accused of having denounced his colleagues to the Ochrana thirteen times. How easy it is to cheat you, gentlemen! The man who gave you this information is either a liar or an agent of the police. Unless he has access to the secret files of the police, he could not have known how many times an informer denounced members of the faculty."

The accuser of Professor Georgievsky was the radical assistant professor of economics, Dr. N. He had given this information to me personally, insisting that Georgievsky's name should head the list. Suddenly his game became clear to me, and I said:

"The accuser of Professor Georgievsky will have to prove his accusations or be exposed as a slanderer."

Pokrovsky looked at me with unexpected warmth. "I think we